



QUESTIONS FOR NOMINEE TO MIRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By: Kristen Miller, Associate Analyst

MATERIALS INNOVATION AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY (MIRA) (CGS §§ 22A-260A, 261, AND 262)

- MIRA is a quasi-public agency that plans, designs, builds, and operates solid waste disposal, volume reduction, recycling, intermediate processing, and resources recovery facilities. It is the successor organization to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA).
- The authority's board of directors consists of 11 members appointed by the governor and legislative leaders. The governor appoints three members, and the Senate president pro tempore, House speaker, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader each appoint two members.
- Three members must represent towns with a population of 50,000 or fewer and two must represent towns with populations greater than 50,000.
- Five members represent the public and must have extensive, high level experience in a specified field. Three must be experienced in finance, business, or industry; one in an environmental field; and one in an energy field.
- Members serve four-year terms and must be confirmed by both houses. The governor designates one member to serve as chairman, with the advice and consent of both houses. The chairman serves at the governor's pleasure.

- The chairman, with approval of the board of directors, appoints MIRA's president, who supervises the authority's administrative affairs and technical activities.

QUESTIONS

General

1. What do you believe will be the most pressing issues for MIRA's board this year?
2. As a board appointee to represent municipalities with more than 50,000 people, what do you believe are the primary solid waste disposal and recycling issues facing larger municipalities? How are these issues different than those facing smaller municipalities?
3. The act that dissolved CRRRA and established MIRA ([PA 14-94](#)) requires the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner to consult with MIRA about proposals to redevelop the Connecticut Solid Waste System Project. Do you envision a shift from trash-to-energy to other methods of solid waste management? If so, which ones?
4. What steps is MIRA taking to remain competitive with other solid waste materials management service providers?
5. In 2011, the board decided to close the Garbage Museum in Stratford, but left the exhibits in place in case funds became available to reopen the facility. Does MIRA intend to reopen the museum? If not, what are MIRA's plans for the facility?

Solid Waste and Recycling

1. In your role as Hartford's municipal recycling coordinator, what are the most common questions and complaints you receive from residents about solid waste disposal and recycling?
2. Connecticut law requires certain materials to be recycled, such as paper, glass, and metal food containers.
 - a. Do you believe most people are aware of this requirement and, if so, comply with it?
 - b. What are the most effective ways to educate residents about proper waste disposal and recycling?
 - c. What can MIRA do to get people in the habit of recycling?

3. How do the demographic characteristics of a community (e.g., age, language, cultural differences) effect solid waste disposal and recycling? Does MIRA take these characteristics into account when making solid waste management decisions?
3. In 2013, the legislature passed a product stewardship law to manage discarded mattresses ([PA 13-42](#), as amended by [PA 14-170](#)). The program begins May 1 and will involve a \$9 fee charged for each mattress and box spring sold in the state. How will this program affect solid waste collection?
4. Some people argue that bottle redemption laws are losing their effectiveness because (1) the value of the deposit is not a great enough incentive and (2) there are more convenient ways to recycle, such as single-stream recycling. A bill ([HB 6033](#)) before the legislature this session would expand the state's bottle redemption law to include juices, sports drinks, and teas. Do you think this change will encourage more people to recycle under the bottle redemption law?
5. Please compare the solid waste management systems of unit-based pricing ("Pay-As-You-Throw") and single-stream recycling, in terms of their impact on (1) recycling rates and (2) reducing solid waste disposal.

KLM:tjo